

SECRET/EXDIS/EYES ONLY

November 11, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE HONORABLE JOHN N. MITCHELL
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: Contingency Plan for Thailand

Attached is a cable from Ambassador Hannah reporting Thanat's deep concern that the Taksin Contingency Plan had been shown to U.S. Senators. You will recall the meeting in the President's office in which it was stated that Thanat would welcome release of the Taksin Contingency Plan.

/s/
Henry A. Kissinger

Attachment

State Dept. review completed

HAK:AMH:JTH:lds:11/11/60

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION SS 45

INFO OCT 01/046 W

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R 110623Z NOV 69
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1700

S E C R E T BANGKOK 15295

EXDIS

SUBJECT: SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

REF: BANGKOK 15212

1. FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT RECEIVED ME AT HIS HOME TUESDAY MORNING BEFORE GOING TO CABINET MEETING. I CONVEYED THE SUBSTANCE OF STATE 189585. THANAT LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, BUT MADE CLEAR HIS SENSE OF DEEP CONCERN, BUT ONLY OVER THE SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS BUT OVER THE FACT PLAN TAKSIN HAD BEEN SHOWN TO SENATORS. HE SAID THAT DESPITE OUR ASSURANCE, HE MUST ASSUME THAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES "PLAN TAKSIN IS OUT IN THE OPEN NOW." I POINTED OUT THAT WE HOPED TO KEEP THE CONTENT OF THE PLAN SECRET, BUT HE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS AND REMARKED THAT THE ESSENCE OF THE PLAN HAS ALREADY BEEN REVEALED IN THE PAPERS TO THE EXTENT OF REVEALING THAT IS IS A THAI-U.S. CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR RESPONDING TO A THREAT THROUGH LAOS. HE THEREFORE FEELS THAT THE OTHER SIDE KNOWS MORE ABOUT OUR PLANS THAN WE DO ABOUT THEIRS.

2. I REMINDED HIM OF THE ASSURANCES CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF STATE 160368 TO THE EFFECT THAT WE STILL SUPPORT PLAN TAKSIN. THANAT REPLIED THAT HE ACCEPTS IMPLICITLY THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT OF THE PLAN BUT THAT HE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT "A LOT OF WATER HAS FLOWED UNDER THE BRIDGE IN THE PAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS." HE SAID THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE SENATE WOULD PERMIT THE PLAN TO BE EXECUTED EVEN WERE THE APPROPRIATE CONTINGENCY TO ARISE.

3. HE APPRECIATED MY OFFER TO KEEP HIM INFORMED REGARDING

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THE PROGRESS OF THE HEARINGS AND CONCURRED WITH MY EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT PRESS LEAKS OR CRITICAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PIT US AND THE RTG AGAINST EACH OTHER. NEVERTHELESS, HE ARGUES THAT THE PROBLEM IS IN THE UNITED STATES--NOT IN THAILAND, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "A SILENT PARTNER."

4. ON THE WHOLE I BELIEVE THAT MY REPRESENTATION TO HIM, AND IN PARTICULAR THE EXPRESSION OF DESIRE TO COORDINATE WITH THE THAI TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS, WAS USEFUL. ALTHOUGH IT IS QUITE APPARENT THAT THANAT IS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT THE HEARINGS AND THEIR IMPACT AND THAT HE RELATES THIS TO "THE WATER WHICH HAS FLOWED UNDER THE BRIDGE," WHICH IN HIS VIEW UNDERMINES THE SOLIDITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. I BELIEVE THE FOREGOING ILLUSTRATES HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE BE PROVIDED WITH DAILY REPORTS ON THE HEARINGS IN ORDER THAT WE MAY MAINTAIN REGULAR LIAISON WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

5. SINCE DRAFTING FOREGOING, I HAVE JUST RECEIVED STATE 190375 DESCRIBING ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN'S BRIEFING OF SUNTHORN. I WILL RELAY SUBSTANCE OF THIS TELEGRAM TO THANAT. WHEN I TOLD HIM EARLIER THIS MORNING THAT SUNTHORN WOULD BE BRIEFED, THIS REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO FROM SUNTHORN IN WHICH THE LATTER HAD SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT (POSSIBLY ON UNDER SECRETARY JOHNSON) AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REVEAL PLAN TAKSIN TO THE SENATE. I EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT INTENDED TO CALL SUNTHORN IN AGAIN AND BRING HIM UP TO DATE.

GP-2
HANNAH

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